



**Department of Veterans Affairs
State of Connecticut**

**Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes
May 31, 2016**

(Draft minutes subject to review and approval at next Board Meeting)

I. Opening and Introduction:

The Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Christopher McDavid at 3:01PM in the DVA Commissioner's conference room.

In attendance: Christopher McDavid (Chair), Paul Barry, Richard Benson, Ronald Coveney, Amy Donahue, Richard Dziekan, Peter Galgano, Steven Harris, Brien Horan, Frederick Leaf, Patrick Nelligan, Tatiana Quinzi, Michael Thomas, Kjell Tollefsen, Rebecca Wareing

Absent: Philip Cacciola, Robert Cheslock, Paul Tarbox,

Pledge of allegiance was led by Chairman McDavid followed by administration of the oath of Office to Board members by Tom Saadi, DVA Chief of Staff and General Counsel.

Chair McDavid introduced DVA Commissioner Sean Connolly who delivered welcoming remarks followed by Board members introducing themselves and providing brief biographical backgrounds.

Commissioner Connolly introduced the members of the DVA senior leadership team followed by introducing Lieutenant Governor Nancy Wyman who welcomed and thanks the Board members for their military service and continued service to their fellow Veterans.

Chair McDavid then explained the statutory role of the Board as well as the basic structure of the DVA.

II. Overview Reports of DVA Senior Leaders

Chair McDavid introduced Commissioner Connolly to open the formal presentations by DVA senior staff. Commissioner Connolly gave a brief overview of DVA and then introduced DVA Staff who provided reports on each of their respective areas of responsibility as follows:

Tom Stefanko, Director of the Office of Advocacy and Assistance
Maria Cheney, Director of Residential Programs and Services
Sue Krassler, Administrator of the Levitow Healthcare Center
Michael Clark, Chief Fiscal Officer
Noreen Sinclair, Director of Human Resources

BOT Member Coveney asked why DVA was not providing greater VSO support to on-Campus Veteran Residents. Tom Stefanko responded that beginning next week DVA VSOs will provide services to Campus residents on a rotating basis. Commissioner Connolly explained that since January DVA has brought on additional case managers to assist Veteran Residents with goals and objectives.

BOT Member Thomas asked about the sustainability of the IGW fund. Mike Clark responded that the fund is sustainable as long as projected savings and revenues are realized based on policy and structural changes at DVA.

BOT Member Benson asked about the DVA Veteran Worker program and any litigation. Tom Saadi Responded with a brief explanation of the State and Federal Department of Labor cases stating that the State case will be closed out soon and in the Federal case there is a meeting with the Federal Department of Labor in July.

III. Old Business

Joe Danao, Director of Projects and Operations provided an update on the DVA Rocky Hill Reimagine/Transformation 2035 Plan.

BOT Members Benson and Coveney asked about ADA and fire alarm code compliance issues. Danao responded with an explanation of recent upgrades to the fire alarm system explaining that DVA is currently code compliant and that several long-term ADA and Fire safety upgrade projects are moving forward pursuant to grant applications and approvals.

IV. New Business

Tom Saadi, Chief of Staff & General Counsel provided an update on the DVA Interim Residential Programs and Services and Medical Marijuana Policies. He also discussed potential changes to existing policies and the DVA program and Legislative matters impacting the DVA.

Administrative Announcements - Commissioner Connolly announced several upcoming DVA and Veterans events and Chair McDavid then asked Board members for input as to the future meeting schedule with a consensus that he will circulate some dates for feedback from Board members.

There being no further business, Chair McDavid entertained a motion to adjourn – Motion made by BOT Member Harris and seconded by BOT Member Benson. Motion passed unanimously at 4:55 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:

Christopher McDavid, Chair
DVA Board of Trustees

Date _____

Notes: Meeting was followed by a Tour of the DVA Residential Facility and Healthcare Center.